



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

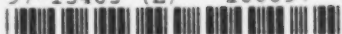
S/1997/441
9 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 6 June 1997 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. It concerns the practice of the representative of the United States in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) of placing contracts for foodstuffs and medicines on hold for no valid reason.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative



Annex

Letter dated 6 June 1997 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

The representative of the United States in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) has, at different times, placed on hold contracts Nos. 146, 169, 170, 212, 213, 238, 292, 306, 311 and 334, which are for medical supplies, as well as contract No. 137, for the supply of wheat from France, and contract No. 575, for the supply of sugar from the United Arab Emirates. On each occasion he did so on the pretext that the items covered by the contract in question were not included in the categorized list of goods annexed to the purchase and distribution plan.

On 23 May 1997, the secretariat of the 661 Committee informed our Permanent Mission in New York that the representative in question had lifted the block placed on these contracts after he had found some of the items in the categorized list and the secretariat of the Committee had found the others!

Wheat and sugar, to take a glaring example, are basic items in the categorized list, and the United States representative has approved contracts for their supply to Iraq in the past. They are basic to the ration allotment that is distributed by the Ministry of Trade. I do not know how this representative dares to lie to the Committee and its secretariat and to say that the two items are not included in the categorized list of goods. The same also applies to the medical contracts.

In bringing to your attention conduct which displays contempt for the 661 Committee and the lack of any sense of responsibility and which is, moreover, motivated by factors entirely unrelated to the humanitarian goals of the agreement on oil in exchange for humanitarian needs, I request you to intervene personally with the 661 Committee with a view to expediting the smooth processing of contracts without the promotion of tendentious political objectives. I further request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
